

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
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USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1888

FOR ASST. SECY MAYNES (IO) FROM FRANK

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND WELLS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, US, UK
SUBJ: U.K. VIEWS ON UNDP

1. AT LUNCH IN LONDON ON JULY 5 WITH PHILLIP MANSFIELD OF FCO AND JOHN WRIGHT, CHIEF ECONOMIST AT ODM, I RAISED THE ISSUE OF U.K. VIEWS TOWARD UNDP, INDICATING THAT THE U.K. DELEGATE, LEN MARTIN, AT THE UNDP 24TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING IN GENEVA HAD TAKEN A LESS FORTHCOMING VIEW TOWARD UNDP ACTIVITIES THAN THAT OF THE US DELEGATION AND OTHER MAJOR DONOR DELEGATIONS. WRIGHT REPLIED THAT MARTIN HAD BEEN GIVEN QUITE FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO BE CAUTIOUS IN LENDING UK SUPPORT TO UNDP ACTIVITIES.

2. I ASKED ABOUT THE BASIS FOR THE UK VIEW -- DID IT REFLECT A DESIRE TO SEE THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, SUCH AS FAO, WHO, AND ILO, EXPAND THEIR INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN USE THE UNDP AS A CENTRAL FUNDING MECHANISM. WRIGHT REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE RATIONALE. INDEED, THE UK WOULD LIKE TO SEE A MUCH LOWER RATE OF GROWTH OF ALL UN EXPENDITURES ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
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ACTIVITIES, WHETHER VOLUNTARY OR ASSESSED, THROUGH THE UNDP OR NOT.

3. THE UK WOULD PREFER TO SPEND MORE ON THEIR OWN BILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES THAN ON SUCH ACTIVITIES BY THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THEY FELT THAT THEIR BILATERAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WAS FAR MORE EFFECTIVE,

PARTICULARLY IN COMPARISON WITH UNDP. THEY FELT THAT UNDP ACTIVITIES WERE PARTICULARLY INEFFECTIVE IN GENERATING NEW, VIABLE PROJECTS IN LDCS THAT COULD BE FINANCED EITHER COMMERCIALY OR BY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCIES.

4. WRIGHT SAID THAT THE UK MADE AN IMPORTANT EXCEPTION IN THEIR HIGH REGARD FOR WHO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES THAT UTILIZED WHO CAPABILITIES IN THE MEDICAL FIELD. THE UK WOULD RATHER SPEND A POUND ON SUCH WHO ACTIVITIES THAN A POUND ON A DIFFUSE PACKAGE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDED THROUGH THE UNDP. THEY DID NOT VIEW THE FAO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS PARTICULARLY FAVORABLY.

5. I INDICATED THAT THE UK VIEWS ABOUT UNDP EFFECTIVENESS WERE AT VARIANCE WITH OURS. WE FELT THAT BRAD MORSE WAS DOING AN ESPECIALLY GOOD JOB IN IMPORVING UNDP PERFORMANCE. WE ARE VERY CONCERNED THAT FAILURE TO SUPPORT UNDP PROGRAMS WOULD MERELY ENCOURAGE THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO EXPAND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES RAPIDLY, FINANCED THROUGH ASSESSED BUDGETS. I SAID THAT THE UK COULD EXPECT THE ISSUE OF UNDP SUPPORT TO BE RAISED WHEN ASST. SECY MAYNES AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG VISIT LONDON JULY 18-19.
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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